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News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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CROP PRODUCTION – October 2009

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado's **corn** for grain production is forecast at 133.0 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year's crop of 147.96 million bushels and down 4 percent from the September 1 forecast. Average yield is now forecast at 140.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from last year and up 2.0 bushels from last month. Areas planted and intended for grain were also revised down 50,000 acres from September 1 to 1.10 million and 950,000 acres, respectively, based on Farm Service Agency (FSA) administrative information. **Sorghum** for grain production for 2009 is expected to total 3.85 million bushels, down 14 percent from the September 1 forecast and from last year's crop. Average yield, at 35.0 bushels per acre, is up 3.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast and 5.0 bushels above last year's results. The area expected to be harvested for grain is down 30,000 acres from the September forecast at 140,000 acres. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 970,000 tons, equal to September's forecast and up 28 percent from the previous year. Yields are expected to average 27.7 tons per acre compared with 26.5 tons per acre last year. The area for harvest is expected to total 35,000 acres, up from 28,600 acres harvested last year. The initial forecast of **all sunflower** production was placed at 113.0 million pounds, down 26 percent from the 2008 crop of 153.4 million pounds. The average expected yield of 1,361 pounds per acre is 414 pounds above last year. Estimated harvested acreage, at 83,000 acres, is down 49 percent from 162,000 acres harvested a year ago. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 3.11 million tons, up 15 percent from last year. **All other hay** production is forecast at 1.67 million tons, up 31 percent from last year's production. Expected **dry bean** production, at 858,000 hundredweight, is up 30 percent from last year. The average expected yield of 1,650 pounds per acre is 150 pounds above the 2008 yield. Area planted was increased 7,000 acres from the June 1 forecast to 57,000 acres based on administrative information and area for harvest is now expected to total 52,000 acres, 8,000 acres above last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 13.0 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 8 percent higher than 2008. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 164.2 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from September and 10.3 bushels above last year. If realized, this yield will be the highest on record and total production will be second only to the record set in 2007. Yield forecasts remained unchanged or increased from last month across the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Ohio Valley where warm, dry weather during much of September helped push the late-developing corn crop towards maturity. Light frost was reported in parts of the northern tier of the Great Plains and Corn Belt in late September. However, temperatures were not considered low enough to terminate crop growth. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, down 1 percent from the September forecast but 1 percent above 2008.

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.25 billion bushels, up slightly from the September forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.4 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month and up 2.7 bushels from 2008. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record. Compared with last month, yields are forecast higher or unchanged in all States except Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, and New York. The largest decrease in yield from the September forecast is expected in Mississippi where persistent rain during the last two weeks of the month increased the potential impact of disease. Increases of 2 bushels are expected in Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Virginia. If realized, the forecasted yield in Alabama, Georgia, and Nebraska will be a record high and the forecasted yield in Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania will tie the previous record high. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 76.6 million acres, down slightly from the previous estimate but up 3 percent from 2008.

Sorghum production is forecast at 364 million bushels, down 7 percent from last month and down 23 percent from last year. Based on administrative information, acreage changes were made in several States. Planted area is 6.62 million acres, down 5 percent from the previous forecast and down 20 percent from 2008. All of the major producing sorghum States are at or below last year's levels. This is the third lowest planted acreage on record. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 5.68 million acres, down 5 percent from last month and down 22 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 64.0 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from September and down 1.0 bushel from last year.

The first **sunflower** production forecast for 2009 is 2.98 billion pounds, down 13 percent from 2008 but up 4 percent from 2007. Area planted, at 2.03 million acres, is down 3 percent from the June estimate and down 19 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 1.94 million acres, down 3 percent from June and down 19 percent from the 2008 acreage. The October yield forecast, at 1,538 pounds per acre, is 109 pounds higher than last year. As of October 1, higher yields are expected in five of the top seven sunflower-producing States, with only Nebraska and Texas farmers expecting lower yields compared with last year. In North Dakota, the largest sunflower-producing State, the yield is forecast at 1,557 pounds per acre, up 158 pounds from the 2008 yield.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures production is forecast at 72.0 million tons, down 1.4 percent from the August forecast but up 3.4 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from August but up 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 21.0 million acres, unchanged from August but up slightly from the previous year's acreage. **Other Hay** Production is forecast at 80.8 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 6 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.06 tons per acre, up 0.05 ton from August and up 0.11 ton from last year. This forecast matches 2004 as the record high yield. Harvested area, at 39.2 million acres, is unchanged from the August forecast but up 113,000 acres from 2008.

United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 25.2 million cwt for 2009, up 3 percent from the August forecast but 2 percent below 2008. Planted area is forecast at 1.53 million acres, up 3 percent from the August forecast and the previous year's estimate. Harvested area is forecast at 1.44 million acres, 3 percent above the August forecast but 1 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,754 pounds per acre, an increase of 4 pounds from August's forecast but 14 pounds below the 2008 yield. Production is expected to be higher than 2008 in 11 of the 18 producing States.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2009 crop year is forecast at 30.1 million tons, 1 percent below the September 1 forecast but up 15 percent from last year. Production forecasts remained unchanged from September in all estimating States except Minnesota and North Dakota where slight decreases in expected yield led to decreased production. Growers expect to harvest 1.16 million acres, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but 15 percent above last year. Expected yield is forecast at a record high 26.8 tons per acre, down 0.2 ton from September but up 0.1 ton from 2008. Record high yields are also forecast in Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming.